

**Meeting Minutes
Virginia Board of Education
Committee on the Standards of Quality**

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Dr. Gary Jones, chairman of the committee, opened the meeting. Committee members present were Dr. Mark Emblidge, Dr. Thomas Brewster, Mrs. Eleanor Saslaw, and Mr. David Johnson. Dr. Billy Cannaday, superintendent of public instruction, was also present.

The committee was presented with an overview of the four unfunded recommendations from previous years:

- Full-time principal in every elementary school
- One assistant principal for every 400 students
- One reading specialist for every 1,000 students
- Speech-language pathologist caseload of 60 students

The members asked about the cost of funding these recommendations, and Dan Timberlake, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, provided projected costs for each recommendation. Committee members and the superintendent requested statistical information regarding the reading specialists and speech-language pathologists. Staff in the Department of Education agreed to gather that information and provide it to the Board and the superintendent.

The members then heard presentations on three other staffing considerations:

- Mathematics Specialists
- Library-Media Specialists
- Using Data to Improve Student Achievement

The members also heard a presentation on the new Standards of Quality requirements in the 2006 Appropriation Act:

- Staffing recommendation for students who are blind and visually impaired
- Language about allocating funds for school nurses
- A technical workgroup to study the SOQ

The members were then informed of a proposed idea to include the staffing requirements for gifted education, career and technical education and special education in the Standards of Quality. The committee was then presented with the current staffing requirements in the Appropriation Act and Board regulations for these positions.